

10 MAY 2003

**An Appeal To State
Minister For Education**

Sir,

Just a month ago or so, I wrote about 'Maldistribution of sub-stipend money in these columns of your esteemed daily. I tried to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to corrupt practices done at the time of drawing and disbursing sub-stipend money to the female students by the academic institutes and Education Project Offices at the Upazila levels. Probably my gesture has gone in vain. Most recently, while the Education Dept have been circulating government directives for enlisting female students, project offices of Intermediate classes, the corrupt office bearers have started demanding/deriving money right from the Head of Institutes in the name of processing papers. Besides, opportunity for realising 'Nazrana' (extra money) at the time of disbursing of sub-stipend still remains ahead.

The Hon'ble State Minister for Education is often found vigilant in apprehending the offenders in and around the examination centres for adopting unfair means. This is worth praising and helps in curbing the number of examination oriented malpractices. On the contrary, it still remains a genuine point to be pondered, whether he takes pragmatic steps to reduce the number of corrupt officials in various departments under his Ministry.

As far as I know each Ministry has a monitoring cell for keeping a close watch on the activities of its personnel and implementation of various programmes. Criticisms, complaints and suggestions often published in the newspapers regarding their activities are supposed to be brought to the notice of high ranking officials by their sub-ordinates. But it is hardly done.

Who will then take up the matters of public interests for mitigation by the appropriate authority? Stories of corruptions and malpractices are being regularly pointed out by the conscious citizens in the letter columns of various national dailies. Unfortunately, the decision making authorities seem to pay no heed to those problems. Unrestrained corruption and illegal practices by officials of various education departments suggest that the crimes and criminals are being patronised by some officials at the upper executive levels.

Things cannot go like this. It is only hoped that drastic action should be taken against the corrupt officials without any favour.

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